

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 IGA-02 CIEP-03

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3519

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EG

SUBJECT: ASSIGNMENT OF EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC COORDINATOR
TO WASHINGTON

REF: CAIRO 5996

1. ABDEL-MEGUID PERSONALLY KNOWN TO THIS MISSION
WITH WHICH HE MAINTAINED ACTIVE AND SYMPATHETIC RELATIONSHIP
DURING PAST 4 OR 5 YEARS. DURING THIS PERIOD MEGUID ASSIGNED
TO UNIDO NEW YORK OFFICE IN UN HEADQUARTERS, SINCE
1972 AS CHIEF OF EXPORT DEVELOPMENT UNIT CONCERNED
WITH ASSISTING THE PROMOTION OF LDC EXPORTS TO
INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES (LARGELY THE NORTH AMERICAN
MARKET), E.G., THROUGH THE PROVISION OF EXPERT ADVICE
TO LDC MANUFACTURERS ON PRODUCT ADAPTATION IN THE
FIELD OF CONSUMER GOODS IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THEIR
COMPETITIVENESS IN SOPHISTICATED MARKETS.

2. OUR READING OF ABDEL-MEGUID ALSO IS THAT HE IS
DYNAMIC AND OFTEN-PERSUASIVE INDIVIDUAL WITH
REPUTATION AS A "GO-GETTER." HE SAW A LARGE ROLE
FOR PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN THE CONSUMER GOODS
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EXPORT PROMOTION FIELD AND, AS A RESULT OF NUMEROUS

CONTACTS WHICH HE ESTABLISHED (E.G., AMONG LARGE-SCALE US IMPORTERS OF CONSUMER GOODS), WAS ABLE TO DRAW ON EXPERT ADVICE FROM SUCH SOURCES AIMED AT UPGRADING DESIGN, QUALITY, ETC. OF POTENTIAL EXPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WITH A LONG PERIOD OF RESIDENCE AND WORK IN NEW YORK AND ELSEWHERE IN THE US, ABDEL-MEGUID APPEARED TO BE THOROUGHLY AT HOME IN THE MERCHANDISING AND IMPORT FINANCING SECTORS OF THE US BUSINESS COMMUNITY. HIS ENGLISH IS, OF COURSE, EXCELLENT. ALTHOUGH HE DISPLAYED GREAT ENTHUSIASM AND ENERGY IN PURSUING PROJECTS FOR EXPORT PROMOTION, HE TENDED AT THE SAME TIME TO BE SOMEWHAT DISORGANIZED, ON OCCASION FAILING TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON SCHEMES WHICH HE INITIATED.

3. MORE RECENTLY, ABDEL-MEGUID APPEARED TO BE DEVOTING CONSIDERABLE TIME TO VARIOUS EXPORT PROMOTION POSSIBILITIES FOR EGYPT, E.G., HE WAS REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN TRYING TO INTEREST VARIOUS AMERICAN CONCERNS IN ESTABLISHING ASSEMBLY AND OTHER MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS IN A PROJECTED FREE-TRADE ZONE TO BE LOCATED NEAR CAIRO AIRPORT.

4. A-M IS MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN. THEY REPORTEDLY HAVE THREE CHILDREN. STIBRAVY

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